THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) There is no proposal to set up hatchery units in Gujarat for promotion aquaculture at present. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture and Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development, there is a provision for giving financial support to private/public sector for establishment of fish and shrimp farms and seed hatcheries. The schemes are open to all States including Gujarat.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) There is no proposal at present to shift the headquarters of any institution involved in fisheries to the State of Gujarat.

Encouragement to Farmers' Organisations

1498. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give encouragement to farmers' organisations in remote and tribal areas which are representing farmers' issues;

(b) what assistance and recognition has been given to organisation s like the Godavari Tobacco Growers and Farmers Association of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether their suggestions have been taken up in policy formulations; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage such farmers' unions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The farmers' organisations are given due importance. However, no financial assistance or formal recognition is given to these organisations. The views expressed and suggestions made by the farmers either individually or through their organisations are taken into consideration while framing various policies and programmes regarding Agriculture.

Agricultural price and procurement policy

1499. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the role of agricultural price and procurement policy in increasing agriculture production and income of farmers;

(b) whether Government propose to review this policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The agricultural price and procurement policy followed by the Government has paid rich dividends in terms of crop production in general and production of foodgrains in particular and thereby increasing the income of the farmers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Growth rate in agriculture

1500. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the long term trend of growth rate in agriculture;

(b) whether the long term trend of growth in agriculture is low; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to raise the growth rate of agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The long term compound growth rate of crop production in agriculture during 1967-68 to 1992-93 was observed as 2 80% per annum.

(b) The long term growth rate of crop production in the country is much higher than the rate of growth of population.

(c) For increasing the productivity and production of crops, various crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; National Pulses Development Programme; Oilseeds Production Programme; Special Jute Development Programme etc. are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertilisers in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the productivity of crops.

Targets for foodgrain production

1501. DR. B.B. DUTTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the targets set for production of foodgrains during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the achievements made against the targets; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the yield of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Targets and achievements of foodgrains during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows :

(Million tonnes)

Year	Targets	Achievements
1991-92	182 50	168.38
1992-93	183.00	180 01
1993-94	188.00	182.03

(c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertilisers in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the productivity of crops.

Recommendations of Dayal Committee

1502. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Dayal Committee.

(b) whether it is a fact that the current foodgrains production level of 180 million tonnes exceeds the normative requirements of the population by 10 per cent; if so, what are the justifications for this; and

(c) whether it is a fact that, so far, R & D in agriculture has overwhelmingly focussed on cereals, and this is no longer warranted, if so what are the other directions of Government to augment R & D ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The main recommendations of the Working Group on Foodgrains Requirements by the year 2000 A.D., set-up under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Dayal, are as under :

(i) Our current foodgrains production exceeds the normative requirements of our population by about 10%.

(ii) Under-nutrition is a matter of inadequate access of the poor to food.

(iii) In average Indian diets, if calorie requirements are met, there is no protein inadequacy.

(iv) The normative foodgrains requirement for the year 2000 AD assuming a population of one billion, is assessed to be 180 million tonnes (cereals, millets and pulses).

(v) Increase in foodgrains production would require a strong market pull which can be provided by a mix of aggressive exports and public stockholding.

(c) No, Sir. It is not true since adequate attention has been paid to research on pulses, oilseeds and commercial crops in addition to cereals. The question of reducing emphasis on cereals does not arise since sustained efforts are required to maintain high rate of growth in production of these crops to meet the increasing demand.

"सूखाग्रस्त" घोषित किए गए राज्य

1503. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान देश के किन-किन राज्यों के जिलों को "सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्र" घोषित किया गया था ;

(ख) देश के किन-किन राज्यों के जिलों में इस वर्ष सामान्य से भी अधिक वर्षा हुई थी ;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस वर्ष उन सूखाग्रस्त राज्यों में हुई अधिक वर्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए ऐसे राज्यों का सूखाग्रस्त (डार्क डेज) दर्जा समाप्त करने जा रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और ऐसा कब तक कर दिया जायेगा ;

(ङ) क्या गुजरात राज्य के जिन "सूखाग्रस्त घोषित क्षेत्रों में अधिक वर्षा हुई है, उनका